G.L.C.C.E.

Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Edmonton
Box 1852 Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2P2
(403) 488 - 3234 104, 11745 Jasper Avenue

FEBRUARY 1993 NEWSLETTER OF EDMONTON'S GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER

CENTRE NEWS

Greetings.

The Centre is still here and thriving.

We are really excited about the changes that are occuring and the possibilities for the future. The new space is working out well and we are looking at spending some time this month cleaning and painting the area to make it more even more inviting. You, the Community, have shown your on-going support by donations of books and other much needed materials. All of this support is very much appreciated and furthers our goals of being able to help those in the Community needing someone to give a sense of hope and pride.

We are pleased that some groups in the Community have begun to utilize the Centre for meeting space. Now that we have the "Board Room" it makes it posible for G.L.C.C.E. to become a focal point of the Community. This is one of our goals and we couldn't be happier.

We are looking forward to G.L.C.C.E.'s grand re-opening on Sunday, March 7. Invitations have been extended to Michael Phair and Mayor Jan Reimer to attend and do us the honour of cutting the ribbon. The Vocal Minority will be joining us to lend their voices to the celebration.

Two weeks later on Thursday, March 18 will be G.L.C.C.E's Annual General Meeting at which we will elect a new Board of Directors to lead us through the up-coming year. Some very qualified people have already expressed an interest and we are hopeful more will decide to give their time and energy to the Community.

In preparation for these events we will be having clean-up/ painting parties on February 7 and 21 from 10:30. We will be meeting for breakfast at Maxwell Taylor's at 9:30 first. This should be a lot of fun and it will be interesting to see the results.

Thank you for your continuing support.

John Iocchelli
Chair
Board of DIrectors

NEWSLETTER

We invite your submission of articles, poems, reviews, editorials, etc. Submissions to the Newsletter should be dropped off at the Community Centre at 104, 11745 Jasper Avenue, by the 15th of every month to be included in the next edition. Please address any items to Keith.

Please put your name and phone number on all submissions so we may contact you if necessary. Names will not be published unless specified.

If you are interested in writing for the newsletter, helping with stuffing envelopes, working on layout, etc., please contact Keith at the Centre, 488-3234, and leave a message.

BOARD RECRUITMENT

GLCCE is beginning the recruitment process for Board of Directors for the 1993-1994 term. New members will be elected at the Annual General Meeting in March.

The positions on the Board require attending monthly meetings as well as additional work throughout the month according to the tasks of the individual. GLCCE's Board is a working board which deals with the day to day running of the organization, as well as setting policy and direction. People committed to the growth of GLCCE, and the Community in general, and who can give six to ten hours a month, and who are not afraid of work are encouraged to submit their names for nomination.

Also required are committee members to assist Board members. Committees include Finance and Fund Raising, Special Events, Education Services and Social Activities.

For further information or to submit names contact John I. through the Centre or speak to a Board member.

Homophobia: the Killer Relationship

Anne Erskine

Relationships. We don't struggle only in interpersonal relationships with intimates. Homophobia warps our relationship with our work. One fear I hear from the women in the coming out group has to do with losing their jobs or the respect of the people with whom they work. For those who have others dependent on their making a living, the fear is particularly nerve-wracking. And when a form asks about job stress few can put down "homophobia."

The agency I worked for dismissed me from my contract. I think the reason is that I am a lesbian. The agency and client disagree. The financial and emotional devastation of my life make me angry. The non-believe that the cause of my dismissal is discrimination by sexual orientation encouRAGEs me to act.

I have started the process to claim my human rights with the Alberta Human Rights Commission. Despite Community Development Minister Dianne Mirosh's threat to disband it, the Alberta Human Rights Commission continues to work on my case and others. The Alberta Human Rights Commission will investigate my claim now; when I was dismissed in November, I called them, they empathized but said they had no mandate. Thanks to all the hard work of GALA and other gay rights groups who have pushed our governments to recognize our vulnerability in a homophobic society, Alberta and Canada are reconsidering the inclusion of discrimination by sexual orientation as a human wrong. I have found I have a supportive relationship with "my community" and, so far, the "state." Change comes if we work for it.

My client says she has rights to her values. Those include the right to fire me for embodying a relationship she believes a wrong choice, apparently. She says she has gay friends. Yet, she writes books and speaks on panels that say being lesbian is unnatural, an egocentric "lifestyle", like feminism, caused by moving away from God and scripture. She draws a diagram that places lesbians and feminists in a dark circle with arrows pointing into it surrounded by a circle, labelled "We", with arrows pointing outward to as circle labelled "God/ Ideal Spiritual Realm." She says she believes that heterosexual marriage is the right place to raise children.

The "some of my best friends" argument didn't impress the Alberta Human Rights Commission thankfully. No one wants to think of themselves as a bigot when they believe they love everyone; the "sinner' if not the "sin." Well, this integrated spiritually journeying lesbian feminist thinks what she says is, at least, heterosexist; at worst, homophobia.

What makes it homophobia? The client didn't call me into her office, shut the door, sit behind her desk, pull down her two books, and call on her professional credentials, until one day after she came to pick up her child at my home. My partner had just come home. They recognized each other from a debate on homosexuality at the University of Alberta five years previously. Denise had identified herself as lesbian and challenged my client's ideas. In other words, until my client realized I was lesbian she had no problem with her child being with me. Afterwards, I was told I could not take the child to my home. Many find themselves in denial about homophobia for many reasons, but this feels like homophobia to me!

I don't think anyone should have to work each day with the fear of losing their job if someone finds out that worker is lesbian. We do not all work for ourselves or in union-protected workplaces and the economic strategies of our government make that increasingly unlikely. I have had the joy of working in a gay-positive workplace. There, I could talk about my life in an everyday fashion just like the non-lesbians.

My co-workers have been very supportive of my human rights bid, even those in the agency that dismissed me. They tell me that the fear of unexpected dismissal is one they share with me as this agency is typical of most women's workplaces doing "women's work", non-union. If I can be dismissed for discriminatory reasons obvious to them, even when my client said I did a good job, they fear too. They each have their own stories of fighting unjust employment practices.

The director of the agency, the client and myself are women who work for the inclusion of handicapped children in our society for the benefit of all. As a feminist, I understand that when three women who share common goals are made adversaries by reason of sexual hierarchicalization, the system that divides us is heterosexist. My contribution as a lesbian ending heterosexism is to do everything I can to name and help eradicate homophobia.

I get obscene phone calls when I speak out. I tell the callers if they want to know more about lesbian sexuality to read a book or take a course. I experience non-lethal assault. I read a gay jogger is murdered in Montreal. Homophobia is a killer relationship. Let's get out of it.

Lesbian Coming Out Group

Mondays
7:30 - 9:00 pm
Gay and Lesbian Community Centre
Starting January 18
Contact Anne at the Centre
488-3234

Do You Have Pictures?

We are presently looking for pictures taken at the Concert of the Rocky Mountain Singers and The Edmonton Vocal Minority November 28, 1992. If you have pictures please call Dave at 454-6914. These pictures will be used for our photo album. Thank You

Thank You

The GLLCE Library has recently received donations of books valued at $500.00. The Board of Directors wishes to thank all who support the Centre in this manner.

Grand Re-Opening

Sunday March 7, 1993
Noon to 3 p.m.
Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton
104, 11745 Jasper Avenue

Special guests: Michael Phair and the Vocal Minority.

Cleaning and Painting

To prepare our Centre we will be having painting/cleanup parties on February 7, and February 20 from 10 am until 4pm.

Come and join the fun!

Business Fair Planned for Gay and Lesbian Community

Members of the Gay and Lesbian Community have expressed an interest in organizing a "Business Fair", mostly likely during Pride Week '93. The fair would allow members of the Gay and Lesbian community to promote their businesses, services and/or products, much like a trade fair. For those of you who have been around for a while, the concept is similar to the old Lambda Business Council trade Fairs. If you are interested in participating in this event, please contact Rick D. through the Centre at 488-3234. Volunteers are also needed to help organize this event.

Mr and Mz Gay Edmonton Pageant

February 27, 1993
Cocktails: 5 - 6:30
Pageant: 6:30 - 10:30
Location: The Roost
Tickets: $10.00

The Pageant is put on by a non-profit fund raising organization called the New Royalist Social Society of Alberta, whose main purpose is to raise monies for other organizations such as WIN House, Kairos House, Stars of Hope and the Christmas Bureau.

For tickets please contact: Curtis at 474-5464

Peer Support Volunteer Training

The next training dates for those wanting to serve as peer suppoprt counsellors at the Centre have been set as February 13, 20, 27 and March 13, 20 and 27. Each session will run 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. This Saturday training has allowed us to shorten the training period without losing any content.

The training provides intensive communication skills and background information in the major issues facing members of our community and is necessary for anyone wishing to provide peer support counselling through the Centre. We encourage those from other organizations wanting to provide similar service to their members to attend.

For further information or to arrange an interview please contact Keith through the Centre or at 488-6033 [between 6-9 pm week nights.]

I know I can't tell you what it is to be gay. But I can tell you what it's not.

It's not hiding behind words, Mama. Like family and decency and Christianity. It's not fearing your body, or the pleasures that God made for it. It's not judging your neighbor, except when he's crass or unkind.

Being gay has taught me tolerance, compassion and humility. It has shown me the limitless possibilities of living. It has given me people whose passion and kindness and sensitivity have provided a constant source of strength.

It has brought me into the family of man, Mama, and I like it here. I like it.

Letter from Michael to his mother
from More Tales of the City
by Armistead Maupin

READER'S CORNER

"SOUNDS LIKE HOMOPHOBIA TO ME"

We in the Lesbigay communities, and indeed all communities, are living in dangerous times in the province of Alberta. The government of the province, elected to protect the citizens of the province -- all the citizens -- is creating a climate of fear.

In one of the last remaining provinces which has **not** enacted legislation to protect the rights of gays and lesbians, we have a minister, who shall remain Dianne Mirosh, who has declared her desire to rid the province of the Human Rights Commission because she does not believe that those who differ from her need to be protected from the discrimination she has never experienced. And she has declared, counter to scientifically run studies, that Albertan womyn do not want Equity Pay legislation -- based on the fact that the people she talks to told her so. We have a minister, Ernie Isley, who believes there is nothing wrong with telling jokes which devalue womyn and promote the notion that violence is an acceptable way to solve problems. Ernie also doesn't want one of Alberta's human treasures, k.d. lang, recognized because she is a lesbian. And don't forget good old Ken Kowalski who is appalled that monies should go to promote lesbian art. And we have a premier whose campaign workers actively sought the support of the lesbigay communities to win his election but who now denies this and endorses the stands of his ministers by failing to remove them from office.

The scary part is that this group of out-of-touch Conservatives are placing **all** minority Albertans at risk. During the week of February first, a group of Conservative Members of the Legislative Assembly will gather to decide the fate and future of the Alberta Human Rights Commission. This group will debate the future of a body designed to protect the basic human rights of minorities in the province. I do not know who will be sitting in on these discussions, other than Premier Ralph Klein and Justice Minister Dick Fowler, but I fear minorities, particularly the lesbigay communities, including womyn will not be represented.

I have never been politically motivated; I have never been an activist; I have never been an angry man. I am now.

I refuse to allow the uninformed, the uncaring, or the vindictive to place my friends and myself in jeopardy. For no matter how they try to use semantics to disguise things these people, and the narrow-minded minority who support them, are placing all of us in jeopardy. Anyone who doesn't belong to stright male dominated hierarchy of this province is in jeopardy. If they succeed in their plans we all will be stripped of what little protection we have now.

Politicians respond to the voices of the people. It is time we let them know that **we** are their constituents, their voters, their bread and butter. It is time we began to send a message to everyone in the Legislative Building [and those who refuse to go to the Building] that **we are here and queer** and ready to defend ourselves against homophobia. Because, as Romanovsky and Phillips say:

IT SOUNDS SUSPICIOUSLY LIKE HOMOPHOBIA TO ME.

I encourage those who are concerned about the actions of the government to let the Premier and his cronies know of those concerns. Write to the Premier and Dick Fowler, and to every other MLA to voice your concerns. If you want to ensure your communication reaches the right people Marie Laing of the NDP has offered to pass all letters on.

Please voice your concern. If you don't who will?

Yours in Pride

Keith D. Turton

NEWS RELEASE

THEATRE NETWORK
FOCUSES ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION DISCRIMINATION FORUM

In conjunction with this year's NETWORK NEWrites Festival, THEATRE NETWORK is organizing two public forums that relate directly to one of the plays it is presenting, CASTRATO. The play calls for one forum to explore the societal impact of discrimination due to sexual orientation -- a current and hot topic in today's news. A second forum is planned to discuss the general subject of religious reform -- including the ordination of gay and female clergy.

Our intent is to foster public awareness by presenting an open forum to address and exchange ideas and opinions about this issue. I'm sure all will agree this is a timely subject.

Government officials invited to our forum include **Premier Ralph Klein; Mrs Dianne Mirosh**, Minister of Community Development; **Ms Wendy Kinsella**, Executive Director of Alberta Human Rights Commission; **MLA William Roberts** and **Councillor** [sic] **Michael Phair**. We are anxiously awaiting confirmation from these parties.

THEATRE NETWORK would like to request that anyone who might have had an experience or has dealt with any hardships caused by the issue of sexually orientated discrimination or has an interest in religious reform, to contact us and be part of our audience. The exact dates of the forums have not been set. It is apparent however that they will take place in early March. We are anxious to hear RSVP's on our invitation. Please phone 453-2440 for further information.

Pride 1992 Conference

The International Association of Gay and Lesbian Pride Co-ordinators was formed in California to promote Gay/Lesbian Pride whenever and wherever possible; to increase networking and communication among Pride groups; to encourage communities, large and small, to hold some type of event commemorating the 1969 Stonewall Riot; and to increase education with the Gay and Lesbian Community and the community at large.

In the second year it was decided that the Conference would become national; three years later became it international when Vancouver and Toronto joined the IAG/LPC. Each year an international theme is picked to create international Lesbian and Gay Pride unity.

The theme tries to recognize that Gays and Lesbians all over the world are struggling for our rights.

Cheryl Shepherd and Dave Hicks attended the 11th Annual IAG/LPC conference in Long Beach, California, in October, 1992. The two attended numerous seminars including: Public Relations, Diversity in the Community, Team Building, Time Managing, Roberts Rules of Order, How to Run Effective Meetings, and Merchandising.

Although much of the information came from an American perspective, we found much to apply to Edmonton's Pride Week events.

We look forward to using the information we gathered at the Conference and hope to make Pride Week '93 a even greater success than last year's. The 1993 theme of **"A Family of Pride"** reflects the sense of pride in the "family values" the Gay and Lesbian community has instilled in itself. "Because of the struggle for civil rights and the onslaught of AIDS, our community has mobilized much like a family does in times of crisis. We want to convey to the public that the Gay and Lesbian community is made up of families who have the same moral values as so-called traditional families."

A special thanks goes out to New York, Kansas City, and Long Beach for their support and encouragement.

Dave and Cheryl

A Family Of Pride

We call upon the members of our community to came together and plan this year's event. Please have someone represent your organization of business at the initial planning meeting. We need your members to attend and share their energy and knowledge in planning the celebration of our Pride Week on

February 21, 1993
Noon to 3:00 pm
The Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton
Suite 104 11745 Jasper Avenue

If you have questions or would like more information please call Dave Hicks at 454-6914 or Cheryl Shepherd at 433-1372 on or before February 20.

Brian Webb Dance Company
presents
The Dreams Of Odysseus

February 26 & 27
8 p.m.
John L. Haar Theatre
GMMC Jasper Place 10045 - 155 Street
Tickets $10.00

THE DREAMS OF ODYSSEUS asks many questions of what it is to be a manly man. It is a work directly about homosexuality and the homnosexual experience in a macho environment that excludes all but one point of view -- man as warrior, man as patriarch. The queer dancer refuses to be sentimental or guilt-ridden. The personal is politcal. The Brian Webb Dance Company presents work that is on the cutting edge. It's for the audience member who wants an adventure, a challenge, a memorable experience that will provoke much discussion.

Call Brian Webb Dance Company, 483-2368, for details or TicketMaster, 451-8000, for tickets.

Attention: Edmonton Prime Timers

A Social Organization For Older Gay and Bisexual Men!

A new social organization for older Gay and Bisexual men, (40 years plus) has started in Edmonton. Monthly meetings are held the second Sunday of every month at the Unitarian Church of Edmonton, 12530 - 110 Avenue at 2 p.m.

Come and join us and meet new friends -- take part in our social, cultural and educational events. Tell your friends!!

For more information write to us or better still ... Come On Out to the next meeting.
Mailing address: Suite 1093, 11444 - 119 Street, Edmonton, T5G 2X6

Linking Lesbians Across Canada

Here's the opportunity you've been waiting for! Write to other lesbians, increase your circle of friends, or perhaps find that special someone you have been looking for.

LYNX

A correspondence club
Ages 18 and over

For information, please write and enclose a $.43 stamp to:

LYNX
PO Box 4759
Station E
Ottawa, Ontario
K1S 5H9

After receiving your request, we will send you the following:

1) an introduction to LYNX;
2) an application for membership; and
3) ideas on how to complete your application.

Attention Writers

Final Call For Submissions For

Queeries

AN ANTHOLOGY OF
CANADIAN GAY MALE PROSE IN ENGLISH

Dennis Denisoff of Montreal and Arsenal Pulp Press of Vancouver are pleased to announce the forthcoming publication of **Queeries: AN Anthology of Canadian Gay Male Prose in English**, to be published in the Fall of 1993.

Although there are many male authors currently writing and publishing gay prose in Canada, no anthology of the work from this community has appeared to date. The on-going AIDS crisis and its devastating effects on the gay community have politicized and invigorated gay culture beyond the spectre of sexuality. Arsenal Pulp Press is acknowledging this artistic development with this publication, which will include some of the most innovative and politically concerned Canadian gay prose available. "The works to be collected in this anthology would not be an all-encompassing collection of gay prose, but rather specific to the politics of marginality necessary in these difficult times," states Brian Lam, Managing Editor of Arsenal Pulp Press.

Submissions and queries should be sent to:

Queeries
Dennis Denisoff, Editor
1619 rue de la Visitation
Montreal, Quebec, H2L 3C2

along with a self-addressed stamped envelope.

The deadline for submissions is February 28, 1993.
Chosen contributors will be paid a fee for their work.

Kompany! Show Stopping Song and Dance

presents

Kinky Pinky Hall Party

An S&M Love Affair
Saturday February 13 at 9 pm
That Place Upstairs - upstairs 10545 - 82 Avenue

Dress: Black and Pink; Black and Red; Black and Blue

Tickets: $10 advance (424-0353) $12 at door

A *Film* AND *Video* EXHIBITION PRESENTED BY THE FILM AND VIDEO ARTS SOCIETY AND METRO CINEMA CURATED BY SHEILA PETTY

COLONIZATION GENDER & ~~THE~~ MY BODY

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1993

Alile Sharon Larkin, *A Different Image*, USA, 1981, 51 minutes
Marlon Riggs, *Tongues Untied*, USA, 1989, 55 minutes

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1993

Yvonne Rainer, *Privildge*, USA, 1990, 108 minutes

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY, 12, 1993

Helen Lee, *Sally's Beauty Spot*, Canada/USA, 1990, 12 minutes
Laleen Jayamanne, *A Song of Ceylon*, Australia, 1985, 51 minutes
Mona Hatoum, *Measures of Distance*, United Kingdom, 1988, 15 minutes

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1993

Marusia Bociurkiw, *NightVisions*, Canada, 1989, 55 minutes
Marie-Helene Cousineau, *Women in Black*, Canada, 1990, 27 minutes

All screenings are in the Colin Lowe Cinema, NFB, beginning at 8:00pm

$4/Night/FAVA or Metro members
$5/Night/Non-members
$15/Series
Call 429-1671/425-9212 for more information

PRESENTED BY FAVA AND METRO CINEMA

Supported by the National Film Board - North West Centre - Women's Program, North West Media Network, In-Sight '92 and the University of Alberta Dept. of Comparative Literature and Film Studies

FAVA and Metro Cinema gratefully acknowledge the support of the Canada Council, The Alberta Foundation For The Arts, The City of Edmonton, The National Film Board of Canada, The Department of Communications and The Edmonton Community Foundation

The AIDS Benefit

A Night of

Gilbert & Sullivan

Presented by
Edmonton Opera
and
Edmonton
Symphony Orchestra

March 31, 1993
Jubilee Auditorium

for the
AIDS Network of
Edmonton Society
201, 11456 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 0M1
Ticket Information:
(403) 488-5742

AIDS NETWORK OF EDMONTON SOCIETY
G.M.O.C
(GAY MEN'S OUTREACH CREW)

GAY MEN'S FACILITATOR'S TRAINING WORKSHOP

MARCH 5, 6, 7, 1993

A workshop designed specifically for Gay Men wishing to become workshop facilitators for one of the Gay Men's Safer Sex Workshops. This weekend workshop will increase your understanding of the safer sex workshops and of outreach programs provided by the AIDS Network, enhance communication and facilitation skills and build a stronger community network committed to addressing gay issues.

SPACE IS LIMITED. SO REGISTER NOW!
CALL DENIS AT 488 - 5742

RUBBERWEAR PARTIES: This gathering of friends deals with intimate issues such as dating, relationships, self esteem, communication, negotiating sex, being gay and other topics raised by the group. These are private parties held by request for six or more men.

EROTICIZING SAFER SEX: In this half day workshop we explore how to make safer sex more erotic and fun. We also look at what is safe and not safe and new ideas to spice up our sex lives. We share experiences and ways of adapting to sex in a time of HIV/AIDS.

SEX, DATING AND INTIMACY: The title says it all. In this full day workshop we deal with becoming comfortable with love, relationships, sex, being gay and strengthening bonds with the each other and within the Gay Community.

BEING GAY IN THE 90'S: This weekly eight session workshop discusses topics that range from gay history, risk taking, negotiaton, gay community and being gay in the world of AIDS. Additional topics are raised and discussed by the group.

MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP: This informal group meeting once a week discusses topics of interest to gay men. It is an ongoing discussion group working on a drop-in basis.